

The birth of his first child in 1999 helped him mature as a young man and he obtained a fulltime job as a dietary worker at the senior citizens center where he had been employed for almost ten years.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. Colome for his extraordinary accomplishments and spirit which reflect the best our nation has to offer.

HONORING THE MERLO STATION HIGH SCHOOL GAY STRAIGHT ALLIANCE

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to take a moment to honor the incredible work of the Merlo Station High School Gay Straight Alliance. I had the opportunity to present these aspiring young citizens with the Portland Pride Youth Award and want to share with my colleagues how inspired I am by their dedication and accomplishments.

After organizing just last year, the student-led force has been instrumental in addressing homophobia at Merlo Station High School, in the Beaverton School District and in the broader community. Among many other examples of outreach, the Gay Straight Alliance has organized student groups to march in last year's Pride Parade and AIDS Walk, created a 2-day all-school event for National Coming Out Day, and encouraged students to take ownership of their language by developing a "No Bigoted Speech" pledge.

As we continue to debate many of the current GLBT-related pieces of legislation facing the 112th Congress, from the Student and Employee Non Discrimination Acts to the Safe Schools Improvement Act, I encourage my colleagues to remember these passionate students at Merlo Station High School.

I am inspired by this on-the-ground student organizing and will continue championing legislation to advocate for full equality for everyone, regardless of their gender expression or sexual orientation, because it is the right thing to do.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2112) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Chair, I rise to strongly object to the Republican majority's mean-spirited \$650 million cut to vulnerable

women, infants and children. The Republican's Fiscal Year 2012 Agriculture Appropriations legislation, H.R. 2112, chooses to make this drastic reduction to the Women, Infants and Children, WIC, program at a time of economic crisis for millions of American families. WIC is a proven strategy to guarantee that lower-income expectant and breastfeeding mothers and their children up to 5 years of age receive nutritious food. In Minnesota alone, 137,000 children rely on WIC benefits to keep them healthy and help them grow strong.

The federal budget is in crisis and Congress must take serious and immediate steps to tackle rising federal deficits. Members of Congress have a choice about how to reduce the deficit and a choice about who in our society will be asked to make the sacrifices. In Fiscal Year 2012, the Republicans are proposing uneven sacrifices. The Republican majority is choosing to cut \$650 million from the women, infants and children in our communities who most need assistance while choosing to protect nearly \$4 billion in taxpayer subsidies for Exxon and other large oil companies at a time of record-high gas prices. Up to 350,000 eligible women and children across the country will be denied access to basic nutrition under H.R. 2112.

I urge my colleagues to reject the cuts to WIC in H.R. 2112.

HONORING R.G. SHIPLEY ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 99TH BIRTHDAY

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great North Carolinian, farmer and agricultural expert, Mr. R.G. Shipley, on the occasion of his 99th Birthday.

Mr. Shipley is a standard-bearer for agriculture in the High Country of North Carolina and has for years served faithfully on the Watauga County Farm Bureau Board of Directors.

Of course, when we say, "served for years," most people assume five or maybe ten years. In fact, Mr. Shipley has faithfully worked with the Watauga County Farm Bureau since its inception in the 1930's. That is a remarkable testament to his dedication to furthering the cause of local agriculture.

R.G. Shipley also taught agriculture as a local high school teacher at Cove Creek High School for many years. During his many years instructing students in agricultural studies he touched countless young lives. Among them was my husband, Tom Foxx, who sat under Mr. Shipley's tutelage as a high school student.

He is truly a remarkable member of the Watauga County community. Even as he approaches his centennial birthday, R.G. Shipley remains active in the agricultural community. In honor of his long agricultural service to the area, an endowment fund has been established in his family's name to support local agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent constituents like Mr. Shipley in Congress. As he turns 99 years old in the coming week I want to wish him many more years of vibrant life and thank him for his tireless community involvement over the past many decades.

A TRIBUTE TO MARTIN STROMAN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Martin Stroman.

Elder Martin Stroman has been a member of the St. Paul Community Baptist Church since November 1997. He joined after being convicted by the revolutionary and biblical based theology of the Rev. Dr. Johnny Ray Youngblood.

He has been active in a host of ministries. He has been working in the field of addiction treatment for the past nineteen years. He has been exposed to various treatment modalities. Some of them had a religious perspective, others have been spiritually based and many are clinically driven.

Elder Stroman's professional profile is as follows: educator, trainer, motivator, administrator, program developer, advisor, adjunct professor, entrepreneur and twenty year background in chemical dependency and substance abuse treatment.

Elder Stroman has a Bachelors of Science Degree in Human Services along with many Certificates and Citations relating to his field of work. He is affiliated with the Bedford-Stuyvesant Alcoholism Treatment Center Community Advisory Board as well as Kingsborough.

With the joint 350 CASAC Certificate Program the mission statement reads: "Educated communities, save communities. Our commitment is to provide education and training to improve the quality of life in our community and the world. Educated providers, empower educated clients. We are dedicated to changing client thinking and believing."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. Stroman for his extraordinary accomplishments and spirit which reflect the best our nation has to offer.

HONORING LANCE CORPORAL NICHOLAS "NIC" S. O'BRIEN

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following poem in honor of Lance Corporal Nicholas "Nic" O'Brien.

OUR BLESSED SON

In honor of Lance Corporal Nicholas "Nic" S. O'Brien, an American hero, who gave that last full measure. The United States Marines 1st Bat., 5th Marine Reg., 1st Marine Expeditionary Force.

On June 9, 2011, in Afghanistan, Lance Corporal Nicholas "Nic" S. O'Brien of Gaston County gave that last full measure in devotion to his country. As we lay his fine body down to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, our prayers and thoughts go out to him and his loved ones. May God Bless them all. I ask that this poem penned in his honor by Albert Caswell be placed in the RECORD.

OUR BLESSED SON

Nic, You . . .
You, Our Blessed Son . . .
Nic, America's bravest of all ones!